Over the past few months, *The Avengers* has gotten insane amounts of hype. Commercials have appeared everywhere, and it’s been built into one of the most anticipated movies of the summer season. So, does it live up to the hype?

The answer is yes. Marvel Studios has spent some time building a connecting universe encompassing all of its movies, and *The Avengers* brings all those threads together, connecting them into one huge action bonanza.

Thor, Iron Man, the Hulk, and Captain America, each the star of his own respective movie, are brought together by the government organization SHIELD to combat a world-threatening menace of immense proportions: one whose roots spread throughout all of Marvel’s other superhero movies.

First, the special effects are astounding and put to good use throughout. Of the Hulk’s three movies, this is the only one where he doesn’t look ridiculous, and the climactic battle sequence raises computer generated imagery to a fine art.

The movie operates as a giant action ride, never letting up on the throttle even as it delivers important exposition and develops its characters. From its first minutes, it establishes the important details of the universe that may be new to viewers who have not seen other movies.

*The Avengers* succinctly ties together all the other Marvel movies into one storyline, going beyond just assembling the characters. Villains from other movies appear, as do elements of the storyline and secondary characters. For anyone who is familiar with the other movies, it provides a rich layer of detail on top of the action.

The best part of the movie, however, is the interactions of the characters among themselves. Robert Downey, Jr. delivers some well-done comic banter as Iron Man, and even Chris Hemsworth as Thor has some amusing moments of comic relief. Tom Hiddleston gives an awesomely sinister performance as the primary villain, Loki.

The characters and actors work together so well that they could easily have been cast specifically for *The Avengers* rather than pulled from other movies.

Joss Whedon directs and writes, delivering some amusing dialogue as well as memorable high-calibre action.

Catholic students seem to like it, as well. “I thought it was one of the coolest movies I’ve seen in a long time,” said sophomore Tochi Ogu.

If it has an Achilles heel, it’s the movie’s two and a half hour length. “I liked it, but I thought it could have been a little bit shorter,” said sophomore Michael Purello.

However, this movie emerges as one of the best super hero movies out there, and since it has blown opening weekend box office records out of the water, eclipsing even *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*, it would appear that American audiences seem to think so as well. *The Avengers* is an entertaining adventure of a movie that is a promising start to the summer movie season.